When this project was reviewed, some people opined that it could be discarded as it is an Adivasi are and that the line could be laid elsewhere. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this is true?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, at the moment, I do not have information about this.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is a narrow gauge line in my district, Puruliya which is a backward district of our country. A survey was conducted in the Puruliya-Kotshila line for converting it from Narrow Gauge to Broad Gauge. The survey was conducted in the year 1984. At that time, its estimate was Rs. 6 crore. It was sent to the Planning Commission. It was rejected by the Planning Commission.

This line will connect Bokaro with Puruliya. May I know whether the Minister will consider the conversion of Puruliya-Kotshila line from narrow gauge to broad gauge?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : According to the hon. Member, it was but the Planning Commission. Now, we have again sent it to the Planning Commission.

Suspension of I.A. Services

*758 SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVLATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some domestic services of the Indian Airlines have been withdrawn/ suspended during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) when these services are likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some domestic services had to be withdrawn/suspended during the last one years because of shortage of aircraft arising from (i) grounding of the A-320 fleet and (ii) the Gulf crisis.

(c) Most of the services have been restored. The gradual restoration of the other services will also be considered with the fuller utilisation of the A-320 aircraft.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the decision taken to suspend the domestic services after grounding the A-320 fleet is a personal decision taken by the hon. Minister or a decision to this effect was taken by the Cabinet or this decision was taken on the basis of the views expressed by the experts. Sir, due to this decision, the country had to bear a loss of crores of rupees and the passengers, industries, trade and business had to face a lot of difficulties.

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FARROO Q : Sir, this decision was taken by the Government, So, we cannot say that this decision was taken by one person or the Cabinet and so on. It is the Government's decision. On the basis of the decisions, the whole thing had been executed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Sir, my question has not been replied to and I want to know whether this decision was right or wrong? I request the hon. Minister to make it clear.

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : Sir, I have to

say that it does not seem to be a right decision.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the decision to ground the fleet had to be taken and then why the services were r· ·ored? ...(*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the parts of the question be asked at one and the same time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the reasons for grounding the Airbus-fleet and restoring services of these aircrafts. Sir, it has caused the loss of billions of rupees to the country.

Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply had assured that the domestic flights would be started gradually. In this context, I would like to know the number of airports in which the said service has not been restored till date. The time by which these services are likely to be restored and their number thereof. The services of Vayudoot are suspended without any information which causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers.

MR. SPEAKER : If the information is readily available, you may give it otherwise you give it in writing lateron.

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : There are 11 links which have not been restored yet; out of 11 links, we restored about five in November; the rest will be restored in due course.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, instructions have been issued to restore most of the services in due course. I urge that there used to be I.C. Boeing Service from Bombay to Poona and a Boeing 737 service from Poona to Bombay which has been suspended. At present Vayudoot Service is available there for which Aero plane is being used. Keeping in view the traffic position it seems that people there are facing problems. I want to know the time by which the Poona-Bombay, Bombay-Poona service will be restored?

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : For the time being, it is not under consideration. Actually, what we have done is out of 69 routes we have almost restored the original ones leaving about 11; and out of 11, we are just commencing five. Therefore, only six are being left.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Amongst the services suspended, I presume was suspended temporarily, was the mourning flight to Jodhpur. Jodhpur is a major tourist centre; Jodhpur is also entrepot to the entire west Rajasthan including the entire tourist traffic for Jaisalmer as also for Bikaner. And there does not appear to be any rational for the suspension of this flight to Jodhpur because the same flight goes to Jaipur, Udaipur and all that was omitted was just Jodpur. So, my first part of the question relates to this suspended morning flight to Jodhpur which was on account of difficulties faced from the consequences of the Gulf War; it is now definitely overdue for resumption because the tourist season is on us. It is a major tourist spot. When is the Government resumpting this flight?

So far as Kota is concerned, there used to be a Vayudoot flight to Kota. It is a major industrial area; and the timings of were not inconvenient. My good friend, the hon. Member from Kota is a most efficient and careful MP from that region; he is always pushing for Kota. If the schedule for Vayudoot flight to Kota is made in the morning, it would be a very effective flight. Would the hon. Minister please answer affirmatively to both these questions?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : As far as first

part of the question is concerned, I have already told that the Jodhpur sector is under our active consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got a positive reply; it is better than negative.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : In bureaucratic parlance, active consideration means that the file has been finally found. But I only want to know when are you going to act on it? Please have a time schedule for Kota also.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : The morning flight to Jodhpur will be resumed from November 1991.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please start it on the First of November. What about Kota?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOQ : Kota pertains to Vayudoot. This question pertains to Indian Airlines.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The hon. Minister has stated in his answer that due to the shortage of aircrafts some of the domestic flights were suspended. Suspension is a very temporary thing. And in the second part of the answer, he has stated that most of the suspended flights were re-introduced. There were four flights between Cochin and Bombay, which is one of the busy sectors of the Indian Airlines. Only two flights were re-introduced in that sector.

In view of the fact that a large number of people, who are going to Gulf countries, are travelling from Cochin to Bombay, will the Minister be pleased to state that all the four suspended flights will be re-introduced?

And the re-introduction of A-320s will not solve the problem of small airfields like Cochin, because these aircrafts cannot land there. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government is thinking of acquiring more Boeing aircrafts in view of the shortage of aircrafts.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, it is extremely difficult to answer every single details. We have withdrawn about 69 flights due to the Gulf crisis. Now when each and every one of them is going to restored is difficult to say. In any case, Indian Airlines Time Table is an on-going process, is a continuous process. Every single bit of information that the hon. Member wants, we will certainly write to him giving reasons.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Sir, what the hon. Member says does not seen to be a correct Some of the aircrafts, that is, A 320s, have been grounded because the pilots are unde training. The moment they come from the trining we are going to gradulally introduce them.

About the other part of the hon. Member's question, we are going to purchase new aircrafts. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not give us a chance. I want to ask a question related to Bihar State ... (*Interruptions*)...Bihar is being neglected... (*Interruptions*)... The flight to Patna has been suspended.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will disclose a secret to you. On the floor of the House if you ask a question, you will get a negative reply. Please better meet the Minsiter.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, Kota flight has been cancelled for quite awhile. It is a very important area. It is important to get a reply as to when this service is going to be resumed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Morning flight ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : It is a question of changing the time. whether it is morning or evening. But being such an important sector, it cannot be ignored.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : I have already told that this question is related to Indian Airlines ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information, please give it.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : This is Vayudoot flight, which she has herself said...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please write to her.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : I will write to her.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A-320 flights were grounded after the Bangalore crash. It was to be re-introduced in a phased manner. We find that several aircrafts have been lying parked in various airports of the country. And there has been a shortage of flights in va.ious sectors. I want to know whether all the A-320s were totally re-inducted or this phased programme is still an on-going process. And if so, are we still considering to by further 12 A-320 aircrafts under our earlier agreement?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, what the hon. Member says does not seen to be correct. Some of the aircrafts, that is, A 320s, have been grounded because the pilots are under training. The moment they come from the training, we are going to gradually introduce them.

About the other part of the hon. Member's question, we are going to purchase new aircrafts ...(*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not give us a chance. I want to ask a question related to Bihar State ...(*Interruptions*)... Bihar is being neglected ...(*Interruptions*)... The flight to Patna has been suspended.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will disclose a secret to you. On the floor of the House if you ask a question, you will get a negative reply. Please better meet the Minister.

[*Translation*]

Pollution Caused by Thermal Power Plants

*759. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power plants emitting ash and sulphur dioxide;

(b) Whether the pollution caused by such thermal power plants is a health hazard;

(c) if so, whether the emission control devices installed in these plants are not functioning satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken to control the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (d). There are 66 Coal-based thermal stations operating in the country. The flue gases from these thermal plants contain ash and sulphur dioxide. The emission can become a health hazard if the level of emission exceeds the standards of emission levels prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard. The standards prescribed are observed by the installation of emission control devices such as Mechanical Precipitators and Electrostatic Precipitators. The new thermal power plants installed or being installed in the country are equipped with Electrostatic Precipitators of better design and high efficiency ranging from 99.5% to 99.9% to keep the emission levels within the statutory requirements.